16 DECEMBER 1981

Golan Heights Issue

Israeli Reportage, Comment -- IDF radio reported that the military situation on the Golan Heights is normal, with no violations of the disengagement agreement. However, it said the IDF is taking seriously Syrian "declarations of war" and is maintaining an alert along the border. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon toured the heights during the day, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, in an interview with Jerusalem radio, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel will always be ready to conduct peace negotiations with Syria without preconditions and Syria can present whatever demands it wants to in such negotiations. He went on to say that the inhabitants of the Golan Heights "should have the feeling of permanence and certainty that the Golan Heights are really part of Eretz Yisra'el." Israel must make it clear to the world that it will not return to the 1967 borders, he added. Denying MK Yitzhaq Rabin's claim in YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the decision to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights will put an end to the Camp David peace process, Shamir said there is no connection between the Golan Heights issue and the Camp David accords. Asked about possible Egyptian bitterness over the Israeli action, Shamir indicated that Egypt should have no cause to complain since "we are the givers and they are the takers," but he added that Israel has many complaints about Egypt, including "everything pertaining to normalization" and "the atmosphere currently prevailing in Egypt."

In a statement broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres criticized Prime Minister Menahem Begin's tactics regarding the passage of the Golan Heights Law, asserting that he does not accept a "blitz democracy." In another statement broadcast by IDF radio, Peres said the Alignment should submit a vote of no-confidence in the Cabinet over the way the Golan Law was passed.

Further Syrian Reaction -- Damascus radio reported that Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam sent messages about Israel's decision regarding the Golan Heights to the Islamic Conference and other international organizations. The radio noted that officials in Damascus briefed ambassadors from all over the world on the Syrian stand. It also reported that in a speech to graduating officers, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas said Syria will confront Israel's "blatant aggression" on the Golan Heights. SANA reported that AL-BA'TH said the region is now "on the brink of a volcano" and that TISHRIN called on Arab kings, presidents and amirs to face up to the gravity of the situation. Asserting that it is illogical for the Arabs to suggest ideas and proposals while lacking the means to achieve them, TISHRIN called for the pooling of all Arab resources and capabilities to build an effective Arab military strength, which alone will determine the situation in favor of the Arab nation. ATH-THAWRAH, reviewed by Damascus radio, said the Israeli decision makes impossible a just political settlement in the area, placing it over a barrel of gunpowder that can explode at any moment.

Egyptian Reaction -- MENA quoted President Husni Mubarak as telling journalists that Israel's move will not affect Egyptian-Israeli relations. However, he added, it will "definitely" affect the peace process and the final solution to the Middle East problem. A commentary broadcast by Cairo radio warned Israel that despite Egypt's constant assurances that it will continue the peace process, Egypt will not accept Israeli actions that violate the Camp David accords and the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. According to another commentary broadcast by Cairo radio, Israel's decision regarding the Golan Heights may lead to another war in the area, while an AL-JUMHURIYAH editorial, reported by MENA, emphasized that Israel's move has strengthened the extremist and intransigent Arab states.

Other Reaction -- In a government statement, broadcast by Amman radio, Jordan asserted that the Israeli decision to apply Israeli law to the Golan Heights constitutes effective annexation of that area. It added that the decision is not only part of the aggressive and expansionist policy practiced by successive Israeli Governments, but also the "natural fruit of the deteriorating Arab situation." Condemning the Israeli move, the statement called on the international community to deter Israel from implementing it.

According to Baghdad radio, the Iraqi official spokesman told INA that Iraq strongly condemns the Israeli move and called for all Arab governments to support each other against foreign aggression. He said Iraq has always followed such a policy regardless of the policies of other Arab governments and will continue to do so. INA reported that in a 16 December editorial, the Baghdad daily ATH-THAWRAH blamed the loss of the Golan Heights on the "defeatism and capitulation" of the Syrian regime. It said that by encouraging the Iranian "aggression" against Iraq, Syria forced Iraq to fight in the east, thereby depriving the Arab nation of a significant force against Israeli "aggression" and encouraging Israel to apply its law to the Golan Heights "without resistance."

The PLO issued a statement condemning Israel's "dangerous step" in annexing the Golan Heights, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio's English service reported. The statement said the Israeli decision would not have been made if the Arab world were not so divided.

QNA reported that the UAE denounced Israel's decision to annex the Golan Heights; Qatar also denounced the move, according to WAKH. SPA reported that the Islamic Conference Organization issued a statement condemning the Israeli decision. According to Tehran radio, the Iranian Foreign Ministry denounced the "aggressive" Israeli action and announced Iran's full support for Syria.

Lebanon

The Voice of Lebanon radio said it had received a telephone call from someone claiming to belong to the Kurdistan Liberation Army who said that group was responsible for the bombing of the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut. However, AFP reportedly received an anonymous call from the Army for Iraqi Liberation - General Command claiming responsibility, while Iraq's Voice of the Masses Radio blamed the explosion on "Syrian and Persian intelligence organs."

Bahrain

WAKH reported that in a statement to Saudi newspapers, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah said the recently arrested saboteurs belong to the Tehran-based Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain. He indicated that the group had planned to assassinate officials during Bahrain's national day celebrations.

Libya

JANA reported that during a 14 December press conference in Addis Ababa, Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud told journalists that U.S. allegations against Libya are "groundless and silly." He said the United States has been unable to substantiate its allegations and accused it of launching "terrorist" campaigns against Libya and of trying to assassinate Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Afghanistan

According to Kabul radio, President Babrak Karmal left for an official visit to Bulgaria, stopping off in Tashkent en route. However, TASS later reported Karmal's arrival in Moscow, where he presented an award to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, according to Moscow radio World Service.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 241 16 December 1981

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal-Led Delegation Departs for Bulgaria C 1
Karmal Receives Reply Message From 'Arafat C 1
60 'Saboteurs' Killed in Qonduz Province C 2
Mujahidin Officials on Situation in Afghanistan [WAKH] C 2

INDIA

Gandhi Receives Reagan Letter From U.S. Envoy E 1
Delegation Returns From Beijing Talks 15 Dec E 1
Gandhi on Better Relations With Pakistan E 1
Pakistan Stops Envoy's Visit to Wali Khan E 1
Minister Rao's Statement E 2
FRG's Lambsdorff on Various Economic Projects E 2
Gandhi Speaks at West Bengal Public Meeting E 2
Janata Party To Seek Anti-Gandhi Front [AFP] E 3
Council Session Ends E 3

PAKISTAN

President Haq on Better Relations With India F 1
Commentator Stresses Regional Cooperation F 1
FRG Delegation Calls on Haq, Visits Refugees F 2
Chinese Delegation Holds Talks in Quetta F 2
DAWN: Kuwait To Aid in Oil Exploration [7 Dec] F 2
Briefs: Oil Agreement With Shell F 3

IRAN

Majlis Approves Ministerial Nominations I 1
Khomeyni Cancels Appointments for 10 Days I 1
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 730 I 1
PARS: Iraqis Dropping Incendiary Bombs on Ahvaz I 2
Commentary on Conditions for Ending War I 2
Former Shah's Gendarmerie Commander Arrested I 3
Foreign Ministry Official Talks With Soviet Envoy I 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Joint Statement Issued on Soviet Visit P 1

SRI LANKA

Committee Gives Reasons for MP's Expulsion P 2
Jayewardene: Elections To Be Held as Scheduled P 2

KARMAL-LED DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR BULGARIA

LD151552 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Excerpts] Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, who is on his way to an official and friendly visit to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, today stopped for a short time at the Uzbek SSR capital, Tashkent.

Babrak Karmal and his entourage were warmly welcomed by the chairman of the Uzbek SSR Council of Ministers, party and government officials and representatives of the workers of Tashkent. Tashkent airport was decorated with the national flags of the USSR, Afghanistan and the Uzbek SSR in honor of the arrival of Babrak Karmal and his entourage. Babrak Karmal left Tashkent after a short stop.

Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, heading a high-ranking DRA party and government delegation, left this morning for Sofia for a friendly and official visit at the invitation of Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

Karmal is being accompanied on this trip by Mahmud Barialay, candidate member of the party Politburo; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the Central Committee; Vice Chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium Maj Gen 'Abdol Qader; Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost; Emtiaz Hasan, DRA ambassador in Sofia; Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the Central Committee; secretary of the Central Committee Presidium Mohammad Farzam; Sakhi Daneshjo, general director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; member of the Central Committee International Relations Commission Asad Keshtmand; Rahim Raf'at; Colonel A'aziz Asad and Colonel Khatab; Sarawar Mohmand; staff of the party International Relations Department; Deputy Director of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department Sarwar Damani; and Deputy Director of the Publicity and Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Enayat Madani.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that in honor of the official and friendly visit by Babrak Karmal to the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the airport and its terminal was decorated with national and party banners. Slogans were exhibited in connection with the fraternal and friendship solidarity between the two countries. The slogans included the following:

"Let fraternal friendship between the people of Afghanistan and Bulgaria be strong" and "Comrade Babrak Karmal have a good trip!"

A press delegation including the BAKHTAR agency, Radio Afghanistan, television and Afghan film is accompanying Babrak Karmal on this trip.

KARMAL RECEIVES REPLY MESSAGE FROM 'ARAFAT

GF151919 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The reply to the message sent by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People to Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat has been received in Kabul.

In the answer it has been said that the restoration of the legal rights of the Palestinian people, their return to their ancestral land and the establishment of an autonomous state is taking place in conditions wherein U.S. imperialism and Zionism have initiated a new aggression in Palestine and southern Lebanon.

But our people's unflinching struggle and the support by the peace-loving peoples of the world for their just movement is a power which will foil the designs of U.S. colonialism and racist Zionism.

At the end of his reciprocal message, Yasir 'Arafat, while conveying his sincere and revolutionary regards, expressed his best wishes for the progress and prosperity of the friendly Afghan people.

60 'SABOTEURS' KILLED IN QONDUZ PROVINCE

LD151122 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Kabul, 14 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- Several groups of mercenary bandits have recently been neutralized in the vicinities of Qonduz, Herat, Nangarhar and Bakhlan Provinces.

A number of these terrorists have been captured alive by the security forces of the DRA.

Sixty saboteurs were killed and fifteen of them were captured alive in the village of Bikarsai, Khan Abad District of Qonduz Province.

Several groups of robbers and miscreants led by Abdullah [word indistinct] met their deserved fate at the hand of security forces in the vicinities of Kushk Dpripco, in Khisht Pashan villages, [word indistinct] District and in the District of Zardolak of Herat Province.

Two more mercenary bandits of imperialism and reaction were routed in Dakka and Butikot, Shinwar Woluswali of Nangarhar Province.

Another counterrevolutionary band led by their ringleader, Aiouz, met their deserved fate at the hand of security forces in the vicinities of the center of [name indistinct] Province.

A large quantity of arms and ammunitions including machineguns and mortars were recovered from them and two depots of arms and ammunition (?were) totally destroyed in the process.

MUJAHIDIN OFFICIALS ON SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

GF151905 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Doha, 15 Dec (WAKH) -- Nasrollah Mansur, an official of the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, said that the Afghan mujahidin have started to unify their ranks in one front capable of defending their country against the Soviet invasion.

In a statement to the Qatari paper AL-'ARAB published today, Mr Mansur noted that in the beginning the struggle was confined to youths, scholars, students and state officials who had the enthusiasm and ideology to defend their country. But after the communist injustice spread in Afghanistan, the struggle went beyond age and sex. The Islamic Revolution Movement official added that the Soviets had planned to interfere in Afghanistan a long time ago. In the end, they were successful in achieving their goals by placing Babrak Karmal in power.

In another statement, Mr 'Abdossatar Sediqi, an Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan deputy, noted that more than 45 thousand Russian soldiers were killed in Afghanistan as well as 90 percent of the procommunist elements with the remainder fleeing to Russian camps. Since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the mujahidin have lost more than 800 thousand people, and the number of Afghan refugees who have fled to Iran and Pakistan is over 4 million. Sediqi added that the situation in general is in favor of the mujahidin and that the city of Qandahar, which is one of the largest cities in Afghanistan after Kabul, is in mujahidin hands.

GANDHI RECEIVES REAGAN LETTER FROM U.S. ENVOY

BK151609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] A letter from President Reagan was delivered to Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi by American Ambassador Harry Barnes when he called on her in New Delhi today. This was Barnes' first call on the prime minister. They exchanged views on strengthening Indo-U.S. relations.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM BEIJING TALKS 15 DEC

BK151611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The Indian delegation to the talks between India and China in Beijing has returned to New Delhi. The external affairs minister is likely to apprise Parliament of the outcome of the talks in a statement on Friday [18 December]. The Beijing discussions relate to the border question and other bilateral matters.

GANDHI ON BETTER RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN

BK151654 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister has reaffirmed India's full commitment to maintaining peace and better relations with Pakistan. She has pointed out that it never made any sense for the two countries to be in conflict with each other. Mrs Gandhi made this observation when Pakistan's Ambassador at Large A.K. Brohi called on her in New Delhi. Brohi is in the capital in connection with an international conference.

Mrs Gandhi underlined the fact that both India and Pakistan are very rightly engaged in their development programs and the burden of military expenditure is detrimental to their development. She told Brohi that peace and cooperation are a practical necessity for the people of the subcontinent. If India and Pakistan could cooperate they would be stronger and have much greater impact internationally.

PAKISTAN STOPS ENVOY'S VISIT TO WALI KHAN

BK141627 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The Pakistan Government today refused permission to Indian ambassador in Islamabad Natwar Singh and his deputy to visit Charsadda and Tor Khan in the Northwest Frontier Province. They wanted to go there tomorrow to see the ailing frontier leader Khan Wali Khan who lives at Charsadda, a village about 15 km from Peshawar.

An Islamabad report quotes diplomatic observers as saying that this is probably the first time that an ambassador has been refused permission to visit a place in spite of his giving the requisite 7-day notice to the Pakistan Foreign Office.

The decision comes in the wake of discriminatory restrictions on the movement of Indian embassy personnel in Pakistan, the report adds.

Asked if reciprocal measures would be taken against the Pakistan ambassador in New Delhi, Natwar Singh said India does not want to compete with Pakistan in imposing restrictions. India is a free country and the Pakistan ambassador will continue to be at liberty to go where he likes and meet whom he wishes to.

Natwar Singh said he was disappointed at the Pakistani action and regretted the inconveniences to Wali Khan of this forced change of program at such a short notice.

Minister Rao's Statement

BK151700 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The Government of India is not going to place any restrictions on the movement of the Pakistan ambassador in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao told a meeting of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party today India does not want to take a retaliatory step.

Rao reiterated India's firm opposition to the acquisition of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan, saying it was not in the interest of mutual friendship. He said he made this clear to the Pakistani leaders during his visit to Islamabad. It is not a question of Pakistan's right to buy arms as a sovereign country but of maintaining friendship and good relations between the two countries.

About Poland, Rao said he could not say much about developments in that country as the government has not received complete reports.

FRG'S LAMBSDORFF ON VARIOUS ECONOMIC PROJECTS

BK151721 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] India is acquiring two submarines from West Germany. This was disclosed by visiting FRG Minister for Economic Affairs Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff in New Delhi today. Addressing a news conference at the end of his visit he said his government had approved the sale of two submarines to India a few months ago. An agreement was concluded between the two countries last week.

Dr Lambsdorff, who had extensive talks with Indian leaders on various bilateral and international matters, said that West Germany is basically not interested in the sale of arms. Any deal in this regard will be very limited and restricted.

Lambsdorff said India has done very well in the economic field compared with many other countries. He said there has been a distinct improvement in the investment climate in India. Though trade between India and West Germany has doubled in the last 5 years, his country's investment in India is still too low.

Asked about his country's collaboration in setting up a steel plant at Vijaynagar, the minister said the matter came up during his discussions with Steel Minister Pranab Mukherjee. This will be further examined whether a consortium can be formed for this purpose.

He also disclosed that a new Indo-German collaboration is in the offing for manufacturing aircraft. The project concerns civilian aircraft and has nothing to do with defense, he added.

Dr Lambsdorff called on Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi in New Delhi today. He told her that his country is making efforts to persuade the European Economic Community members to follow a liberal policy toward developing countries.

Mrs Gandhi expressed satisfaction over the existing friendly relations between India and the Federal Republic of Germany.

GANDHI SPEAKS AT WEST BENGAL PUBLIC MEETING

BK121655 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] At the public meeting [in Shantiniketan], Mrs Gandhi spoke about the West Bengal Government's attitude and said the country has been faced with a difficult situation. Even then the Marxist-led government is continuously opposing the center and putting hurdles in the way of its functioning. She said the country has been faced with a difficult situation. Even then the Marxist-led government is continuously opposing the center and putting hurdles in the way of its functioning. [paragraph continues]

She said the law and order situation in the state has deteriorated and political murders are increasing. The socialist slogans of Marxists are hollow. If they really believe in socialism, they would not be aligning themselves with the rightist parties in Parliament. They would not have cooperated with the Janata government either. It is evident that they are not worried about the welfare of the weak and the poor or the labor class.

Mrs Gandhi disclosed that the West Bengal government has drawn a big overdraft but is refusing to give any account of this fund. There have been lockouts in many industries in the state but she is not aware of the steps taken by the government. On the contrary, the state government itself is giving a strike call which is something unheard of. Mrs Gandhi said such actions do not affect her government or the mill owners but it is the common man who is hard hit.

JANATA PARTY TO SEEK ANTI-GANDHI FRONT

BK121533 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 12 Dec (AFP) -- The opposition Janata Party today finally decided to explore ways of forging a united non-communist opposition front against Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's ruling Congress Party after a heated debate between pro and anti-front elements at the Janata National Council meeting in Ahmedabad, western India, reports reaching here said.

The decision was reached after anti-front leader, former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, in a dramatic reversal of his earlier stand, gave his approval when senior party leaders appealed to him during a late night session.

Mr Desai, 86, had earlier threatened to resign from Janata and quit politics if elements, which had caused the break-up of the party in 1979, were again brought into the party.

The reports said the compromise unity resolution adopted at the council meeting carried the stipulation that it would be deemed to have been passed unanimously if Mr Desai agreed to it.

Party President Chandra Sekhar, main champion of the unity move, was entrusted with the task of carrying on the negotiations with other parties.

Council Session Ends

BK131617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Text] The 2-day session of the National Council of the Janata Party ended in Ahmedabad today. It adopted a resolution on the political situation in the country and the move for unity amongst opposition parties.

Later, addressing a news conference, party chief Chandra Shekhar claimed that his party has the capacity of becoming a national alternative and a rallying force for unity among opposition parties. He said that the Janata Party is not interested in confrontation with the government but it will resist what he called the evil trends which are abusing democratic institutions.

PRESIDENT HAQ ON BETTER RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK121108 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that there is a growing realization in all countries of the South Asian region that their destinies are interlinked and they can attain their national goals of progress and development only in a tension-free and peaceful environment. In a message the South Asian regional conference of the Rotary International beginning in New Delhi today he said Pakistan is playing its full part in promoting mutually beneficial collaboration in several areas that have been identified through joint consultations. He said the countries of South Asia can forge enduring ties of friendship and cooperation on the foundations of mutual trust, mutual confidence and sovereign equality.

President Ziaul Haq said that since this conference is taking place in New Delhi he would like to reemphasize the deep commitment of the people and the Government of Pakistan for the consolidation of peaceful and amicable relations with India. He said Pakistan is determined to make its full contribution toward this process and he is confident that relations between our two countries will continue to improve during the coming months and years. The president hoped that the deliberations of the conference will give a fresh impetus to the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of good neighborliness for a better future.

The conference is being attended by a delegation of 100 rotarians led by Rotary Governor for Pakistan (Abdul Hai Khan).

COMMENTATOR STRESSES REGIONAL COOPERATION

BK160435 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Commentary by M.A. Majid]

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has underlined the need for opening a new chapter in the relations between the two countries of South Asia, away from the bitterness, suspicion and antagonism of the past. In a message to the Rotary International's South Asian regional conference in New Delhi yesterday, he outlined the basis of a new structure of relationship which would promote closer understanding and cooperation among the countries of the subcontinent and contribute to regional peace and stability.

As he pointed out, there is now a growing awareness among these countries of the fact that their destinies are interlinked and that even the realization of the national goals and objectives of each country is crucially dependent upon the overall conditions in its neighborhood and more particularly about its relations with the other nations of the region. The awareness has led to an acceleration of efforts on the part of the regional countries to forge a closer friendship and understanding with each other and to create a climate of mutually beneficial cooperation between them for collective good.

A concrete example was the meeting of the foreign secretaries of the seven-nation South Asian grouping for regional cooperation which held its deliberations in Katmandu in early November to study proposals for promoting cooperation in five separate fields such as health, population planning, meteorology, telecommunications and agriculture. The foundation of this grouping was laid at a meeting of the foreign secretaries of Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives in Colombo in April this year. The forum has since identified a number of areas for promoting collaboration on a basis of mutual interest.

Another major step was the formation last year of an association of the shippers councils of Bangladesh, Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka to protect the interest of the four South Asian countries against the higher freight rates and other arbitrary practices of liner shipping services which are virtually the monopoly of the advanced Western countries.

The association which met recently in Dacca to finalize its constitution marks a significant development in regional cooperation in an important sphere of common interest. These developments speak of a new urge for detente and cooperation which has for some time been making its impact felt in the context of inter-state relations in the subcontinent.

There is a growing realization of the fact that nearly 1 billion people of the subcontinent, accounting for one-fourth of the human race, can have a bright future for themselves and also make a vital contribution to the cause of world peace and progress if they succeed in creating the right conditions for developing their material and human resources and for realizing their constructive possibilities [words indistinct].

It is equally [word indistinct] that a basic prerequisite is to create an environment free from tensions and bickerings, which in the past have strained inter-state relations, dissipated their resources and energy and obstructed the development of mutually beneficial cooperation among them. Admittedly, such an environment can be sustained and the possibilities of bilateral and multilateral cooperation consolidated if the relations between the two countries are based on mutual trust, confidence and sovereign equality.

As President Ziaul Haq has reiterated in his message to the Rotary International conference, Pakistan remains fully committed to these principles in conducting its relations with the other regional countries, including India, and to play its full part in developing friendship and cooperation with them. It believes that the subcontinent can make a break with its unhappy past and move toward a future of peace, progress and cooperation if the nations in the region work together in a spirit of good neighborliness and if their mutual relationship is founded on the principles of trust, confidence, equality and respect for each other's fundamental rights and interests.

FRG DELEGATION CALLS ON HAQ, VISITS REFUGEES

BK160213 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The visiting Federal German parliamentary delegation led by Dr (Heinz) called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi this evening. The members of the delegation expressed great satisfaction over the progress and working of German-assisted projects in Pakistan, particularly those established for the welfare of the Afghan refugees. The delegation reiterated the support of the Federal German parliament to the cause of the Afghan people and for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. It assured the president of continued economic and technical assistance to Pakistan. The Federal German ambassador in Pakistan was also present on the occasion.

Earlier, the delegation, which visited an Afghan refugee tented village near Peshawar today, assured the Afghan refugees in Pakistan that its country will support their cause. It wished them early return to their homeland in peace and with honor.

CHINESE DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS IN QUETTA

BK141719 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] A four-member Chinese delegation, which is on a visit to Pakistan currently, today discussed with authorities in Quetta the possibilities of technical cooperation between Pakistan and China in various fields, especially housing.

DAWN: KUWAIT TO AID IN OIL EXPLORATION

GF111218 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Rawalpindi, 6 Dec -- Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Maj Gen. (Retd) Rao Farman Ali Khan said here today that Kuwait would help Pakistan in exploration of oil and gas and development of existing fields.

Speaking at a press conference on his return from Kuwait, he said the two countries could also work on joint venture basis. Kuwait, he said, was keen to strengthen ties with Pakistan and collaborate in various fields.

Kuwait Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah, with whom he had very cordial discussions, would visit Pakistan next March to sign the agreement to this effect.

Gen Farman Ali said Kuwait had offered help in expanding oil tanker transportation and national refinery at Karachi. Pakistan was also examining the possibility of buying liquefied petroleum gas from Kuwait which would help in building its storage facilities.

He said the Oil and Gas Development Corporation [OGCD] had discovered 10 prospecting structures in the country which needed investment of Rs. 100 crore.

The minister said that owing to constraint resources, equipment and manpower, the OGDC was not capable of undertaking work at these 10 promising structures. Therefore, a special Cabinet meeting, held here recently to review the energy situation in the country, decided, in principle, that foreign oil exploration companies should be engaged in undertaking exploration work at these structures.

The minister said the rate of Sui gas had to be rationalised to meet the increasing demand. He said Sui gas companies were demanding increase in the Sui gas rate to raise the pressure by setting up of compressors.

He said the government had prepared a plan to intensify gas exploration activities, keeping in view the growing domestic and industrial demands. He said pressure in the existing gasfields was decreasing and investment was needed to increase the pressure.

The minister said six wells under the first phase programme would be explored at Pirkoh gasfield. Three wells would be drilled by OGDC, while assistance was being sought from Asian Development Bank for exploration of the remaining three wells. Work on these six wells would be completed by the end of 1983, he added.

He said a study had been commissioned to determine the reserve of gas at the Marri gasfield. The study would be completed in three months. He added that gas from this field was suitable for fertiliser plants.

When asked about the prospects of Khankheli oilfields, he said promising results were being yielded from this field.

Replying to another question, he said exploration at Khayal was under way and the work would be completed by the end of this month.

He said his visit to Abu Dhabi had to be postponed owing to the OPEC meeting in Abu Dhabi.

He said he would visit Abu Dhabi next month.

He said Saudi Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani would visit Pakistan shortly -- PPI.

BRIEFS

OIL AGREEMENT WITH SHELL -- Islamabad, 10 Dec (APP) -- A supplemental petroleum concession agreement was signed here today between the Government of Pakistan and Pakistan Shell petroleum development, BV of the Netherlands and Oil and Gas Development Corporation for exploration and production of petroleum in an additional area covering 4,287 square miles in districts Mianwali, Sargodha, Jhelum, Gujrat, Gujranwala and Sialkot. The agreement was signed in pursuance of the decision taken by the economic coordination committee on 1 Dec 1981. According to the agreement, the license over the additional area has been granted for a period of 4 years under the terms of original concession agreement dated 20 Sept 1979. [Karachi DAWN in English 11 Dec 81 pp 1, 5 GF]

MAJLIS APPROVES MINISTERIAL NOMINATIONS

LD151022 Tehran PARS in English 1925 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (PARS) -- The Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) today approved nomination of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, and Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati as new ministers of the interior and foreign affairs, respectively. The total number of deputies attending the meeting was 198, of which 186 cast their votes since credentials of others have not been approved yet. The votes cast for Dr Velayati, the new foreign minister, were 155 in favour, 19 against and 12 abstentions. Votes for the new interior minister were 174 in favour, 6 against and 6 abstentions.

KHOMEYNI CANCELS APPOINTMENTS FOR 10 DAYS

LD151802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Imam Khomeyni's office issued a statement announcing that on the occasion of Arba'in-e Hoseyni [40 days after martyrdom of the third Shi'a imam, Hoseyn], all the appointments of the imam of the Islamic nation are canceled for 10 days from Thursday, 17 December 1981. The text of the statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. It is hereby brought to the attention of the public that all the appointments of Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow long continue, are canceled for 10 days beginning Thursday, 17 December, corresponding to the Arba'in of the lord of the martyrs, His Gracious Excellency Aba 'Abd-Allah al-Hoseyn -- may peace be upon him -- until Monday, 28 December 1981. All the brothers and sisters who have made appointments in advance are requested to come to this office bearing in mind the above-mentioned period.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's office, 15 December 1981

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 730

LD151746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Communique 730 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots, fighting continues on most of the country's western and southern fronts with the exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire between our forces and the enemy. On all the fronts, while our forces reply to the fire of Saddam's mercenaries in Bostan and Gilan-e Gharb, they consolidate their new gains, bravely defend their new defensive positions and are controlling every movement of the Iraqis.

Yesterday the declining Iraqi forces on one of the fronts in Gilan-e Gharb carried out an offensive but it was repulsed by our victorious forces. In these operations, which started about 2240 yesterday, our powerful forces succeeded in halting the enemy attack in 1 hour. Considerable losses and casualties were inflicted upon them. In the successful operations in Gilan-e Gharb, in addition to the losses and casualties suffered by the Iraqi forces which have been previously announced, altogether 66 Iraqi trenches and foxholes and one of their 122-mm guns were destroyed.

Yesterday, the enemy brought residential areas of Abadan and Dezful under its long-range artillery fire. Also, part of Ahvaz was bombed, as the result of which, in addition to a few houses which were destroyed, a number of dear compatriots were martyred or wounded.

PARS: IRAQIS DROPPING INCENDIARY BOMBS ON AHVAZ

LD151130 Tehran PARS in English 0935 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (PARS) -- A military source told PARS today that some incendiary bombs were dropped on Ahvaz. The attack, which was carried by three to five French-made Mirage aircraft, martyred or wounded 65 persons. The incendiary bombs started fires in several points in the city and some children were burned who had been playing outside near their homes.

Since the recent victories of the Islamic forces in the southern and western fronts, the humiliated Iraqi aggressor forces have finally realised that the Iraqi regime is nearing its end and therefore it is making final efforts to commit destruction and massacre civilians, as it has done throughout the war. The bombing and shelling of civilian sections of cities and villages, along with other vicious crimes committed since the Iraqi-imposed war began, had either not been mentioned at all in foreign coverage or has just been treated cursorily in order to discount the importance of the event before world public opinion.

COMMENTARY ON CONDITIONS FOR ENDING WAR

GF151240 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 13 Dec 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Saddam Regime's Ridiculed Face and the Achievements of the Islamic Army"]

[Text] With the liberation of Bostan on the western battlefront, the resistance of the Muslim Iranian people and the Islamic armed forces, which has been continuing for 14 months now, is entering a new stage. The latest military operations, which have completely cut off the enemy's communications lines, have divided the enemy forces on two wide fronts. One point that is of great importance is that the Islamic forces are adhering to Islamic ways and principles in every move they make.

The war Iraq has declared on Iran is between the forces of right and those of blasphemy. Therefore, it is impossible for the forces of right to ignore the Islamic school of thought. The traitorous Saddamist army is gradually being weakened and defeated in the course of the war, and Muslim people have now begun to realize the true identity of the fascist administration ruling them. These two points are the auspicious results of the Islamic approach that is being employed. When Islamic fighters meet with the misled Saddamist troops, they try to rid them of the psychological pressure of the exploitationist political system that dominates the Iraqi Army instead of killing them.

Without attaching importance to Saddam's aggressive policy, the Muslim Iranian people mourn for those who have fallen in the endeavor to rid our country from occupation. [sentence as heard] Meanwhile, Iranians follow Islamic principles in their treatment of those who surrender willingly. This state of affairs is daunting the regime in power in Iraq.

The defeat of the aggressive policy spearheaded by the Iraqi Ba'th Party has proved how dangerous such regimes are for Muslim peoples. It must never be forgotten that by imposing this war on the Iranian Islamic revolution, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has dealt the greatest blow to the realization of Islamic objectives against the regime that is occupying the Islamic land of Palestine. The Islamic fighters have been forced to fight as a result of the Iraqi Armed Forces' attack on Iran. Thus, this move, instead of one that would have united the resources of the two countries against Zionism in the region, has forced the Islamic troops to take up arms to rid their country of enemy occupation.

However, this war should be regarded as a lesson, because it has proved that the Islamic front has put forward a clear example of complete adherence to the Islamic school of thought against Saddam, who is being directly protected by the superpowers. Meanwhile, the front set up by the forces of blasphemy has committed unprecedented crimes in the course of the war. It has launched missiles at defenseless civilians in cities and villages martyring women and children. It has also savagely bombed crowded cities such as Ahvaz, Ilan and Dezful, destroying many houses.

These frantic moves by the Baghdad regime are indicative of the shock the Ba'thist regime has suffered. They also prove that it is about to fall. History has proven that regimes with governments not based on the people have resorted to such inhumane moves. The objective behind the pressure exerted within the country and the attacks on their neighbors provides them with an opportunity to maintain their illegal rule. All this is a clear indication of the fact that all dictatorial regimes will fall in the near future.

The traitorous Iraqi regime, which is aware of the fact that it is living through its last few days, is playing its last trump cards. It is bombing defenseless people. An end to the war is only possible through the cessation of attacks and through the liberation of the Muslim Iraqi people from the captivity of the international exploitationist network.

FORMER SHAH'S GENDARMERIE COMMANDER ARRESTED

LD151322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the office of the Islamic revolution prosecutor general today announced that on 5 December retired Maj Gen Nurollah Ertefa'i, commander of the Operations Bureau of the gendarmerie under the Satan, was arrested by the [Revolution] Committee of District No 1 [in Tehran] and was handed over to this office. A considerable number of documents showing his connections were discovered and confiscated from his house.

Major General Ertefa'i is charged with subservience to the hated regime of Pahlavi and participating and cooperating in crushing the Muslim and struggling nation during the period leading to the victory of the Iranian revolution. The operations carried out under his supervision and that of some other treacherous commanders of the gendarmerie include the [name indistinct] or the plan to crush the revolutionary students in the mountains to the north of Tehran in 1977 and 1978.

The office of the revolution prosecutor general, considering the charges brought against the accused, asks the whole Muslim and revolutionary nation, especially the students and military brothers, to inform the office of the revolution prosecutor for the Central Province, 25th Branch, situated at Martyr Qoddusi Square, of all their complaints or evidence in connection with the actions of the accused, Major General Ertefa'i, within 20 days from today.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL TALKS WITH SOVIET ENVOY

LD151746 Tehran PARS in English 1546 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Dec (PARS) -- The Soviet ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Vladimir Vinogradov, met and conferred with Ahmad Azizi, the deputy foreign affairs minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Tuesday morning. In this meeting, general matters regarding mutual relations between Iran and the Soviet Union were considered.

SRI LANKA

COMMITTEE GIVES REASONS FOR MP'S EXPULSION

BK141233 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Dec 81

[Text] The parliamentary select committee, which inquired into the expulsion of the Panadura Member of Parliament Dr Neville Fernando from the United National Party [UNP], said two issues could be construed as reasons for the expulsion.

According to the committee report published today, one is Dr Fernando's letter of 28 July to the DAILY NEWS which had contained several statements critical of the manner in which the government had handled the control of terrorist activity in the north. The second is a speech purported to have been made by the MP at Panadura on 5 September in which he had criticized the government, the party and the leader in public.

The committee said it appeared that Dr Fernando had been given sufficient opportunity to retract the remarks attributed to him in the newspaper dispatch. But except for a few corrections made, the main criticism levelled against the party had been left intact.

The committee further refers to section 5 of the code of conduct for ministers, deputy ministers and MP's which lays down that they should be alive to the fact that they are members of the UNP. They should not by their actions, or public speech or private conversation in any way do or say anything that is derogatory of the party or suggests that there is dissatisfaction within the party.

The committee's report is to be discussed in the Parliament on the 23d of this month.

JAYEWARDENE: ELECTIONS TO BE HELD AS SCHEDULED

BK121156 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Dec 81

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene today asked all members of the United National Party [UNP] to regard next year as election year and to gear their activities accordingly. The advice came at the 27th annual session of the UNP this morning at the (Sugotodasa) indoor stadium in Colombo. The session attended by some 10,000 delegates was presided over by Jayewardene in his capacity as party leader. As the president was suffering from a throat ailment his speech was read on his behalf by the prime minister.

Jayewardene said the UNP was committed to hold a general election in 1983 and a presidential election in 1984. He reiterated that these responsibilities would be carried out to the letter. Moreover, the present constitution did not permit the postponement or cancellation of elections. Only the people could do so.

NEPAL

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON SOVIET VISIT

BK151653 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 15 Dec 81

[Text] V.V. Kuznetsov, the first deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, left Katmandu today for home after completing his 3-day official visit to Nepal. Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa gave a warm send-off to Kuznetsov at the Tribhuvan International Airport. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented honor to the deputy chairman, Kuznetsov. Among those present at the airport to bid farewell to the Soviet dignitary were the chief justice, Rashtriya Panchayat chairman, Rajya Sabha standing committee chairman and distinguished persons.

In a joint statement issued at the end of Kuznetsov's visit to Nepal, it is stated that His Majesty King Birendra Bir Vikram Shah Dev has been invited to pay an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union by Leonid Brezhnev, the president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

In the joint statement, the two sides noted with satisfaction that friendly relations between Nepal and the Soviet Union have developed successfully on the basis of equality and mutual respect, strict observance of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs.

The two sides reaffirmed the desire to further strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation between them. Mutual interest was expressed in expanding mutually beneficial trade and economic cooperation.

Nepal and the Soviet Union expressed their concern at the worsening of international situation and spoke in favor of relaxation of world tensions and settlement of conflicts by peaceful means. They expressed firm conviction that all states, big and small, irrespective of their sociopolitical systems, must unite the efforts to prevent nuclear confrontation and retain peace.

It was noted by the Soviet side that Nonaligned Movement, in which Nepal participates, is a significant factor in preservation and consolidation of peace and relaxation of international tensions.

Nepal and the Soviet Union resolutely opposed imperialism, colonialism, racism and apartheid. They support the lofty ideals of humanity as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the struggle for economic and political independence of the people.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the results of the discussions and believed that they had made a useful contribution to the cause of strengthening mutual understanding on the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Nepal and the USSR.

On behalf of the Government of the USSR, Kuznetsov invited Prime Minister of Nepal Surya Bahadur Thapa to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was accepted with gratitude. Mutually acceptable date of the visit will be agreed through diplomatic channels.

Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa has said that Kuznetsov's visit to Nepal has been fruitful in promoting friendship and understanding between the two countries.

Talking to the press at the Tribhuvan International Airport this morning, Thapa said that talks were being held to promote cooperation between the two countries. In reply to a query, Prime Minister Thapa said that Afghanistan figured in his talks with Kuznetsov and at the talks both sides expressed their respective points of view. The prime minister said that Nepal, as a nonaligned country, has always made clear her view on any issue.